CONFIDENTIAL.] [No. 7 of 1878.

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 16th February 1878.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
	BENGALI.			
	Monthly.			
1	"Bhárat Shramjíbí"	Baráhanagar ...	4,000	
2	"Rajshahye Sambád"	Rajshahye ...	.....	
3	"Grámbártá Prakáshiká"	Comercolly ...	200	
4	"Arya Pratibhá"	Bhowanipore ...	.....	
	Bi-monthly.			
5	"Culna Prakásh"	Culna ...	.....	
	Weekly.			
6	"Banga Hitaishí"	Bhowanipore ...	.....	
7	"Bishwa Dút"	Táligunj, Calcutta ...	.....	6th February 1878.
8	"Bhárat Mihir"	Mymensing ...	658	31st January and 7th February 1878.
9	"Bhárat Sangskárak"	Calcutta ...	.....	4th February 1878.
10	"Bengal Advertiser"	Ditto ...	.....	
11	"Dacca Prakásh"	Dacca ...	400	10th ditto.
12	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly ...	1,168	8th ditto.
13	"Moorshedabad Pratinidhi"	Berhampore ...	.....	8th ditto.
14	"Pratikár"	Ditto ...	235	8th ditto.
15	"Grámbártá Prakáshiká"	Comercolly ...	200	2nd ditto.
16	"Sambád Bháskar"	Calcutta ...	.....	
17	"Sulabha Samáchár"	Ditto ...	5,500	9th ditto.
18	"Sádháraní"	Chinsurah ...	516	3rd ditto.
19	"Hindu Hitaishiní"	Dacca ...	300	9th ditto.
20	"Soma Prakásh"	Bhowanipore ...	700	11th ditto.
21	"Sahachar"	Calcutta ...	.....	4th ditto.
22	"Hindu Ranjiká"	Bauleah, Rajshahye ...	.....	6th ditto.
23	"Rungpore Dik Prakásh"	Kákiniá, Rungpore ...	250	
24	"Burdwan Pracháriká"	Burdwan ...	165	
	Bi-weekly.			
25	"Banga Mittra"	Calcutta ...	4,000	
	Daily.			
26	"Sambád Prabhákar"	Ditto ...	550	26th January to 9th February 1878.
27	"Sambád Púrnachandrodaya"	Ditto ...	.....	8th to 14th February 1878.
28	"Samáchár Chandriká"	Ditto ...	625	13th February 1878.
29	"Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká"	Ditto ...	.....	15th ditto.
30	"Arya Mihir"	Ditto ...	.....	
	ENGLISH AND BENGALI.			
	Weekly.			
31	"Amrita Bazar Patriká"...	Ditto ...	2,217	7th ditto.
32	"Howrah Hitakarí"	Bethar, Howrah ...	300	10th ditto.
33	"Moorshedabad Patriká"	Berhampore ...	.....	8th ditto.
34	"Burrisal Bártábaha"	Burrisal ...	300	
	ENGLISH AND URDU.			
35	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta ...	400	9th ditto.
	URDU.			
	Bi-monthly.			
36	"Akhbár-ul-Akhiár"	Mozufferpore ...	.....	
	HINDI.			
	Weekly.			
37	"Behár Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna ...	509	13th ditto.
	PERSIAN.			
38	"Jám-Jahán-numá"	Calcutta ...	250	8th ditto.

POLITICAL.

BHARAT MIHIR, January 31st, 1878.

Native Princes and the British Government.

IN writing on the subject of the relations of Native Princes to the British Government, and the reference made in Parliament to the fact, that Maharajah Scindhia, while in Calcutta, had omitted to call on the Lieutenant-Governor, the *Bhárat Mihir*, of the 31st January, makes the same observations as those noticed in paragraph 3, of our Report of the 2nd February.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

BHARAT MIHIR.

The License Tax Bill.

2. The *Bharát Mihir*, of the 31st January, makes the following observations on the License Tax Bill:—Now that this Bill has been referred to a select committee, we shall offer a few comments on behalf of the country. Government will, of course, do as it pleases; but we shall not cease, on that account, to give expression to the views of the people; who will be able to appeciate the value of our remarks, whether the authorities do so or not. We are really sorry to observe the part taken by Mr. Eden in this affair, in reference to which His Honor has not fully done his duty. In the Indian Legislative Council, he failed duly to represent the views of Bengalis; nor did he attempt to show whether they were reasonable. Although the only representative and friend of Bengal in that Council, he did not inform them that, the people of Bengal were not unwilling to pay this tax, but only entertained strong objections to its being made a permanent burden. We are, however, thankful to Maharajah Jatíndra Mohan, who offered not a few observations to this effect. But who would pay any heed to him?

A gross injustice will be done to this country, if, without effecting any reduction of expenditure, the tax be made permanent. The people are uneasy, and are harassed by numerous taxes. A person assessed at one rupee will somehow have to pay four times that amount. Not a few poor traders will be ruined. Perhaps Government does not sufficiently realize what fearful oppressions are committed on the poor by those appointed to collect the duties. In the name of justice, and on behalf of the poverty-stricken, we ask that the tax may not be imposed on those whose earnings do not amount to Rs. 10 a month at least. Already trading operations are not in favour with the people, and fail to command respect; and if their pursuit be found to be attended with oppressions, the sole endeavour of the people will be to forsake trade and seek service. What will they infer from the conduct of the authorities, which must appear to them an enigma, that while a merchant, with an income of a lakh of rupees, has only to pay a license fee of Rs. 200, a person whose monthly earnings are represented by five rupees is not exempted. The English papers may accuse us of fostering a spirit of race-antagonism; but we do not, we confess, see in the rates of this tax, anything but a manifestation of this feeling. How shall we advocate such an oppressive measure? What has Sir George Campbell said on hearing of it? In clear and unmistakable language he declared that, this tax would press heavily on the poor and not affect the rich. If the only object of the authorities had been to raise a revenue, without any regard to the hardships or inconveniences to which the poor might be subjected, and if Government believed it was doing its duty by grinding the poor, while those who were able to protest against their measures were spared, then our objection to the rates at which it is proposed to levy the new tax must be futile. Although the Bill has not yet been passed into law, the Collectors have already, in a manner, under orders from Government, begun the work of assessment; and it is probable that the very day after that on which the Bill is passed, the duties

will begin to be levied. Government is firm in its determinations; and no amount of remonstrance or reasoning will make it swerve from them. It may or may not give heed to other remarks; but, to redeem its own promise, it should clearly state in the Bill the purposes to which the proceeds of the tax will be applied. In the present Bill, there is no mention of this point; and it seems that, the Lieutenant-Governor will only raise the money like a banker, and place it in the hands of the Government of India, and that it is not competent to the local Council to discuss the objects to which it is to be applied. The members, however, should remember the solemn pledge given by Lord Lytton and Sir John Strachey, that the proceeds of the new tax will not be applied to any other purpose than that of meeting the cost of famine relief. The Government of India does not certainly mean to recede from the pledge; why then is not publicity given to it, by incorporating it in the law? This would inspire the people with confidence, and, to some degree, make the pressure of the tax less felt. If the interest on the debt incurred, up to this time, for the purpose of famine relief, and which is represented by an annual sum of 64 lakhs of rupees, were equally distributed, as a financial liability, over the different Governments and the administrations of India, Bengal would not have to pay, as her share of the burden, more than ten or twelve lakhs a year. But then, there is no one who really feels for her; and she must bear all the burden which Government may lay on her. We know perfectly well that such expressions of regret are of no avail; but we have not yet become adepts in the act of concealing the sorrow that burdens our hearts. When last year, by the imposition of the Public Works Cess, the rates of the Road Cess were doubled, we were led to expect that a large number of canals and tanks would be excavated in the country; but nothing followed in practice. From the proceeds of the cess, Government will pay the penalties of its former errors to the end of time, as well as the interest on all capital wastefully expended in the Public Works Department, or in Guaranteed Railways. Will the same scene be acted over again in connection with the License Tax? Government will, per chance, say, after a few days, that "the proceeds of this tax, being all required to pay the interest on the famine debt, you cannot expect to see works for the prevention of famines constructed, or savings effected against a contingency." God forbid that we should again have to hear such cruel words! We only ask that the Government of India should not take more than 15 lakhs of rupees, for the purpose of paying the interest; and that the remainder should be expended in the construction of reproductive public works. Lord Lytton has himself admitted the superiority of Railways, as a means of mitigating the rigors of a famine. We fully coincide with this. In this province, irrigation canals produce but little appreciable benefit. Hence we would ask Government, that as soon as the License Act takes effect, the construction of Railways should begin in those parts of the country which do not already possess them. Any delay or indifference in connection with this matter, will hardly leave the people any ground for confiding in the Government.

The Native Civil Service.

BHARAT MIHIR, January 31st, 1878.

3. The same paper thus writes towards the conclusion of an editorial headed, the "Native Civil Service." The promises contained in the speeches of the Viceroy, on the occasion of the Delhi Assemblage, and the last Convocation of the Senate of the Calcutta University, are likely to bear fruit shortly. It was not certainly just, on the part of the Rulers, so long to have kept the natives back from all high appointments in the public service, after having recognized their right thereto. A few years back a little concession only would have gratified them; but, fearing this might interfere with the interests of

Europeans, Government remained blind to the real state of things. Being naturally loyal to their Rulers, natives would never have had any reason to complain, if they had been treated with equal consideration. It is not that the people do not desire the continuance of British rule in India; they only ask that the rulers, instead of regarding them as a subject, conquered, and dependent race, would view them in the same light as the inhabitants of Scotland or Ireland are received by the English nation. This is not an unreasonable request. The supremacy of the British rule in India will long remain intact, if Government be only generous to this extent. Confidence will beget confidence, and love give rise to love. Unkindness can never be repaid by attachment.

BHARAT MIHIR, January 31st, 1878.

The construction of Public Works necessary.

4. The same paper thus delivers himself on the subject of a Famine Commission, and the need of reproductive Public Works, as a means of mitigating its rigors:—The way, in which Government has hitherto conducted the prosecution of public works in this country, cannot prove sufficient to remove the wants of the people, even in a hundred years. Of the public revenues, the fraction only that remains, after paying the high salaries of the civilians, the expenses of the hill sojournings of the Government officers, the army charges in England, and the cost of festivities, is expended in the construction of necessary works of public utility. It was, however, for the latter purpose that the Road and the Public Works Cesses were imposed, and the license tax is about to be introduced. It really pains us to think how the funds of the former cesses are squandered. This is a dark blot on the administration. Nor is it known with certainty how the license tax will be expended. We, therefore, ask Government to save the country by the construction of necessary Public Works with capital borrowed in England.

GRAMBARTA PRAKASHIKA, February 2nd, 1878.

Famines frequent under the British Government.

5. The *Grâmbártá Prakáshiká*, of the 2nd February, contains an article headed, "Perennial Famines." The writer seeks to show that famines have become of more frequent recurrence under the British Government, than they ever were either under the Hindu Kings or the Mahomedan Nawabs. Famine prices now rule the markets. Government, although it is its duty to adopt means for the prevention of this calamity, is so procrastinating in its action, that it has not yet been able to arrive at any fixed conclusion upon the subject. Different authorities advocate the need of using different means, such as irrigation canals, increased taxation, and so forth. But no one has hit upon the true expedient, viz. the prohibition of exportation. Under the British Government, the people indeed enjoy security of life and property, and the blessings of education and civilization, but they suffer extreme proverty and have not wherewith to feed themselves.

GRAMBARTA PRAKASHIKA.

A defective Financial Administration and the poverty of the people.

6. A correspondent of the same paper sends a long letter, in which he dwells on the increased taxation with which the people have been saddled, and the gradual impoverishment of the country. The large revenues are either misapplied or squandered; while the least reference to the subject, in the columns of a newspaper, brings down upon the head of the writer censure and wrath. The revenues raised in this poverty-stricken country are not expended for its benefit; they go to enrich England, and pay the high salaries of the officers, the expenses of festivities, and durbars, the cost of a state church, and other matters, which do not in the least concern the welfare of the natives. The measures, exceedingly necessary for this latter purpose, are not undertaken owing to an alleged want of funds. On the same

plea also, Government excuses itself for having done next to nothing for the relief of the malaria-stricken, to promote facilities of communication, to use means for the prevention of cholera, to appoint natives to any high offices in the public service, or to provide the people with high education.

SADHARANI, February 3rd, 1878.

Mr. Eden and the License Tax.

7. The *Sádháraní*, of the 3rd February, contains an article headed "Mr. Eden again." He repeats what he said in his former issue, that Mr. Eden is really hostile to the tenantry. This poverty-stricken class was saddled with a road cess, that the hard-wrung proceeds might be applied to the construction of roads for the use of the zemindars, Europeans, and other well-to-do people. Mr. Eden was not satisfied with this; and has therefore successively laid on two other taxes. The last measure, the license tax, will press heavily on them. While wealthy mahajuns, with an income of two lakhs, will not be required to pay more than Rs. 200 a year, petty traders, earning not more than Rs. 5 or 6 a month, and having to support a family of at least three members, will be liable to pay a tax of one rupee. Mr. Eden is not content with levying this tax from the poor; but says, the people are not dissatisfied with the measure. But what, we ask, is the meaning of the universal discontent expressed in the papers? If for no other purpose, only to protest against this incorrect statement, we ask every town and village to make their views known to Government.

SADHARANI.

The British Indian Association and the License Tax Bill.

8. Regarding the attitude of the British Indian Association towards the License Tax Bill, the same paper agrees with the *Amrita Bazar Patriká*, in thinking that the memorial made by that body is lacking in earnestness. (See paragraph 15 of our last Report).

BHARAT SANGSKARAK, February 4th, 1878.

Calcutta Municipality.

9. The *Bhárat Sangskárak*, of the 4th February, thus concludes an article on the Calcutta Municipality, in which the discussions of the Commissioners regarding the doings of the Night-soil Committee are dwelt upon. "We are filled with sorrow and despair when we learn of the existence of irregularities and differences among the Commissioners. Government boasts that, by introducing municipal institutions into this country, it has opened the way for teaching independence and self-government. But since no liberty has been allowed, even to the Calcutta Municipality, what is there which may lead us to expect that it will be granted elsewhere? If, as in the present instance, it has been possible for a salaried European officer to act against the law with impunity, what good has come of the introduction of the elective system? Is it not really strange that a person, who has squandered lakhs upon lakhs of public money obtained by sucking dry the life-blood of the people, could not be censured by their lawful representatives from fear? Every thing, however, becomes a European. Thanks to Sir Richard Temple, Sir S. Hogg did as he pleased; and no one could oppose him. Mr. Metcalfe also is acting arbitrarily, and who will say anything against him?"

SAHACHAR, February 4th, 1878.

Apprehension of an outbreak of cholera and small-pox in Calcutta.

10. The *Sahachar*, of the 4th February, remarks, that a serious outbreak of cholera, small-pox, and other diseases is apprehended in Calcutta, owing to the manner in which dirty tanks are being filled up, under the orders of Dr. Payne, by street-sweepings and rubbish. The stench constantly emitted from them is sickening, and is mainly responsible for the occurrence of cases of cholera and small-pox.

SAHACHAR.

The Native Press.

11. The same paper has a lengthy editorial on the Native Press. The writer gives an account of the press in India since the time of Sir Charles Metcalfe, and extols that statesman for granting it liberty. He vindicates the loyalty

of the vernacular newspapers, to the British Government, in spite of their occasional excesses of tone and style, and the hostile attitude of those Government officers towards them who cannot brook criticism ; and holds up the noble example of Lord Lytton, as regards his treatment of the newspapers, as one worthy of imitation by Mr. Eden. The writer advises his contemporaries of the Native Press to be moderate in their writing, and not to indulge in invective.

SAHACHAR, February 4th, 1878.

Mr. Gael.

12. The same paper notices, with gratification, the excellent work that is being done by Mr. J. D. Gael, the Assistant Magistrate of Rampore Haut. Under him the sub-division is daily increasing in prosperity. By his ability and generosity he has endeared himself to the inhabitants. There is peace in the sub-division ; thefts and robberies have ceased to occur ; facilities of communication have been increased ; and education encouraged. We hope Government will recognize Mr. Gael's merit, and grant him promotion in the service.

SAMBAD PRABHAKAR, February 5th, 1878.

Obscene Books.

13. The *Sambád Prabhákar*, of the 5th February, observes, with regret, that obscene books and pamphlets are now freely published and sold. Government should direct its attention to this subject. What is the Society for the Prevention of Obscenities doing ?

HINDU RANJIKA, February 6th, 1878.

Technical education necessary.

14. While expressing gratitude to the British Government for the education, which, under it, the people are receiving, and which is the best gift that has been conferred upon them, the *Hindu Ranjiká*, of the 6th February, says that their condition is such that the majority require a technical instruction, and not a high education or scholarships. It therefore behoves Government to provide for this want by setting up industrial and primary schools for the working classes. For this purpose should be utilized a considerable portion of the funds now applied to the maintenance of colleges.

BISHWA DUT, February 6th, 1878.

Maharajah Jatíndra Mohan Tagore on the Taxation Bills.

15. The *Bishwa Dút*, of the 6th February, fully agrees with the sentiments of the speech, made in the Legislative Council, by the Hon'ble Maharajah Jatíndra Mohan Tagore, on the Taxation Bills ; and observes that, the Hon'ble Member truly represented the views of the people in connection with the proposed measures. The editor asks Government to appoint to the Legislative Council more native members of like ability as the Maharajah.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, February 7th, 1878.

Increased difficulty of earning a livelihood.

16. The *Amrita Bazar Patriká*, of the 7th February, dwells on the increasing difficulty of earning a livelihood at the present day. The learned professions—law, medicine, and engineering—are overstocked, and natives following them are not favoured by Government. The public service is being gradually closed to them. All the higher appointments are given to Europeans ; while the majority of the lower are conferred upon East Indians. The dull state of the trades and commerce, the ruin of the native industries, the decline of the land-owning class, the general impoverishment of the people caused by the prevalence of litigation, the rise in prices, and the introduction of a higher standard of comfort, have combined to make the condition of the people one of exceeding hardship. It only remains for them to engage in trade, or perish for want of food.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA.

The License Tax Bill.

17. The same paper observes that the License Tax Bill, in its amended form is, in some respects, better than the original. It would probably have been further improved, if Mr. Eden had not betrayed a strong desire to passing it into law in haste. Although, passed in its present form, it may not lead to such oppressions

as we had apprehended; still, if the condition of the trading classes has not become worse since 1866, it will at least prove doubly as oppressive as the license tax introduced that year.

Reduction in the Police Department.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, February 7th, 1878.

18. The same paper fears that, in making a reduction of expenditure in the Police Department, as Mr. Eden is said to be contemplating, the number of Police Inspectors, who are mostly natives, will be reduced. Mr. Eden is not the man to abolish the post of Assistant Superintendent, though it be quite unnecessary, because that would be touching the pockets of Europeans.

Appellate Benches in Bengal.

BHARAT MIHIR, February 7th, 1878.

19. The *Bhárat Mihir*, of the 7th February, remarks, in reference to to the proposed establishment of Appellate Benches in Bengal, that, although we have no objection to offer to this measure, still, to make it really beneficial, it should be so arranged, that the bench might periodically hold its sittings in every district. This, we believe, to be necessary in case Government may decide on appointing one bench for four or five districts, and a particular place for its sitting; otherwise, suitors, who are poor, will be subjected to extreme inconvenience and expense. District Judges should also be entrusted with the duty of transferring, to the file of the judges composing the bench, such suits as might be decided by them.

Mr. Eden, the Native Press, and the Native Commissioners of the Calcutta Municipality.

BHARAT MIHIR.

20. The same paper observes, with regret, the hostile attitude assumed by Mr. Eden toward (1) the native newspapers, and (2) the Native Commissioners of the Calcutta Municipality. Both have incurred His Honor's displeasure for their independent bearing and outspokenness. But what will the country think of him, who is regarded as its friend, for this? It would not pain us, nay, we should be rather grateful to him, if our faults were pointed out in a friendly spirit; but we cannot tolerate these repeated attacks on our independence.

Dacca and Mymensingh Railway.

BHARAT MIHIR.

21. The same paper is thankful to the Lieutenant-Governor for the kind interest he has taken in the projected Railway from Dacca to Mymensingh, and hopes that the surveying operations will commence at once.

Prospects of educated natives.

BHARAT MIHIR.

22. The same paper contains a long article on the prospects of educated natives, in which he expresses views identical with those noticed, in paragraph 16, from the *Amrita Bazar Patriká*.

The British Government.

SULABHA SAMACHAR, February 9th, 1878.

23. The *Sulabha Samachar*, of the 9th February, contains an article, headed "We should not be dissatisfied with the British," from which we make the following extract:—Whatever progress we have made is entirely due to the British nation and the British Government. It is true that we have many wants and grievances; but what people is there that has not; especially the people of a subject country? But every native of India ought to be grateful to the British nation for the advancement the country has made under its rule. There is scarcely any one possessed of power and authority, who would not show them to some extent; it is not, therefore, a matter of wonder that the Europeans should be partial to others of their race, and fail to treat us with much consideration. They will seek to do their utmost in this respect; we too will protest to the utmost of our power; and thus we shall proceed as far as possible. But in spite of a thousand faults which the British may possess, we can never be ungrateful to them. Whatever we may say to the contrary, we cannot do without the English. If we must remain a subject people, we should prefer that rule which is the best. The fallen Hindu race have

not yet attained that degree of strength, unity, and intelligence which would fit them for self-Government.

SULABHA SAMACHAR, February 9th, 1878.

Mr. Eden and the Native Press.

24. The same paper remarks that, by his strictures on the Native Press, Mr. Eden has made himself exceedingly unpopular; for the vernacular newspapers represent the views of the people, and exert not a little influence. It therefore behoves His Honor to conciliate them by a generous treatment. In this respect, the noble example set by Lord Lytton will be of great use to him.

HINDU HITAISHINI, February 9th, 1878.

The License Tax Bill.

25. The observations made by the *Hindu Hitaishiní*, of the 9th February, on the License Tax Bill, are identical with those adverted to in paragraph 1 of this Report.

SOMA PRAKASH, February 11th, 1878.

26. The *Soma Prakásh*, of the 11th February, devotes a long editorial, headed "Oppression," to the consideration of a case under the Municipal Act, recently tried by the Hon'ble Rai Rámshankar Sen, Bahadoor, the Chairman of the Rajpore Municipality, in which Pundit Dwarkanath Vidyabhusan, the Editor of this paper, and who is an inhabitant of Changripottah, a village under its jurisdiction, is the defendant, and certain of his neighbours the plaintiffs. The subject of dispute is the right of way to a foot-path, about a cubit broad and 180 cubits long, over the land of the defendant, which he maintains to have been all along a private path-way; while the plaintiffs deny this; and demand that it should be made twelve cubits broad. The Chairman of the Municipality has, however, effected a compromise, and ordered it to be made five cubits wide. This decision has not given satisfaction to either party, who characterize it as a most arbitrary proceeding. If the case be not satisfactorily decided by either the Magistrate or the Commissioner, the defendant asks the Lieutenant-Governor to call for the papers and pass an equitable decision.

SOMA PRAKASH.

Technical *vs.* High education.

27. Adverting to the Resolution of the Government, to provide a practical training for the students of the Civil Engineering College, and the views of Mr. Eden upon the subject, the same paper remarks:—The desire of the Lieutenant-Governor to carry out the proposed measure in an economical manner is indeed commendable; but unless Government first leads the way by setting up efficient technical schools, it is not easy to persuade native noblemen to take any active interest in the movement. It would not be out of place, if, in this connection, we referred to the indifference or even hostility shown by Government to the spread of high education, on the strength of an erroneous notion that, the more educated the people become, the greater will be their discontent with the British rule. But do the rulers expect to improve the condition of the country by keeping the people steeped in ignorance? Who seek the welfare of their country, an ignorant or an educated people?

SOMA PRAKASH.

The Lokenathpore Factory case.

28. The same paper thus concludes an article on the Lokenathpore Factory case, and the sentence of imprisonment passed on the two persons who had given information of the murder to the authorities:—The Europeans are as pure and spotless as the pure water of the Ganges; those that associate with them are also pure; they do not so much as know what it is to murder or do any evil. They also possess so much patience and such power to suppress anger, that, not to speak of murder, they do not even open their mouths in rebuke. Now, the witnesses had sought to throw dirt on their pure bodies; and also gave trouble to the Magistrate. Their punishment, therefore, has only been just. But a doubt arises in our minds! Why are the inhabitants of Kishnaghur so dissatisfied? Are they so by nature, or is there any real

reason for their discontent? Why was Mr. Glascott in such haste to write to Mr. Skrine? Why did the latter receive his letter? Why was not Mr. Glascott arrested? The reasons assigned for not doing this are exceedingly weak. It is a fact that the current of injustice, wrong-doing, and oppression is steadily flowing; and that the rulers are not able to stem it. There is reason to fear, that a continuance of this state of things will ultimately prove a scourge and bring about the destruction of British rule in this country.

LOCAL.

URDU GUIDE, February 9th, 1878.

Advantages of a Railway Line from Calcutta to Jessore.

29. Adverting to a State Railway Line, proposed to be constructed from Calcutta to Jessore, the *Urdu Guide*, of the 9th February, remarks:—If the measure be carried out, it will prove exceedingly beneficial to both Government and the people. The trade between Calcutta and Jessore, which is already extensive, will receive a stimulus; and the receipts will be large enough, in a short time, to pay off the capital invested in it and the working expenses. The disadvantages which, owing to the indifference of the officers of the Public Works Department, now attend the boat traffic through the Ghepokhoria, Marichcháp, and the Bhángar Khals will also cease to exist. Although the construction of this line will be of great advantage to the inhabitants of Jessore, it will not cause any diminution of trouble to traders from Burrisal and Hindosthan, who have to use these canals. The extensive traffic which passes through them produces a large revenue, in the shape of tolls; this would be still further increased, if a small outlay were made for keeping them in repairs.

JOHN ROBINSON,
Government Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 16*th February* 1878.

Bengal Sect. Press—W. H.—Reg. No. 17494—19-2-78.